Office of Response and Restoration
Our role in the Delaware River and Alaska oil spills

Office of Response and Restoration - Protecting and restoring coastal resources at oil spills and chemical release sites for over 30 years

What we do

- *Provide scientific response for oil and chemical spills*
- *Protect, assess, and restore coastal resources at hazardous waste and oil spill sites*
- *Share expertise to address critical local and regional problems*



Provide response support

- *Coordinate on-scene scientific activities and provide scientific support at incidents*
- *Work with local communities on contingency plans for oil and other hazardous substance spills, homeland security, WMD, and natural disasters*
- *Develop tools and provide training for spill preparedness, response and planning*
- *Improve knowledge and tools for decision making*

Address oil and hazardous waste sites

- *Conduct natural resource damage assessments to restore coastal resource injuries*
- *Implement restoration projects to address injuries*
- *Resolve natural resource damage liability cooperatively*
- *Recover funds to restore resources*
- *Provide support for Brownfield sites, priority watersheds, and port development*
- *Provide training for partners on rapid assessment, damage assessment, and restoration*

Program results

- *Provide scientific support at over 100 events/year*
- *Protect sensitive areas more quickly*
- *Recommend cleanups that minimize cost and maximize environmental protection*
- *Assess and restore the public's natural resources—working at ~295 oil spill and hazardous waste sites*
- *Cooperate with industry for cost-effective and time-efficient restoration (e.g. Pepco, DuPont, ChevronTexaco)*
- *Helped generate over $300 million for restoration*

T/V *Athos I* Delaware River Spill

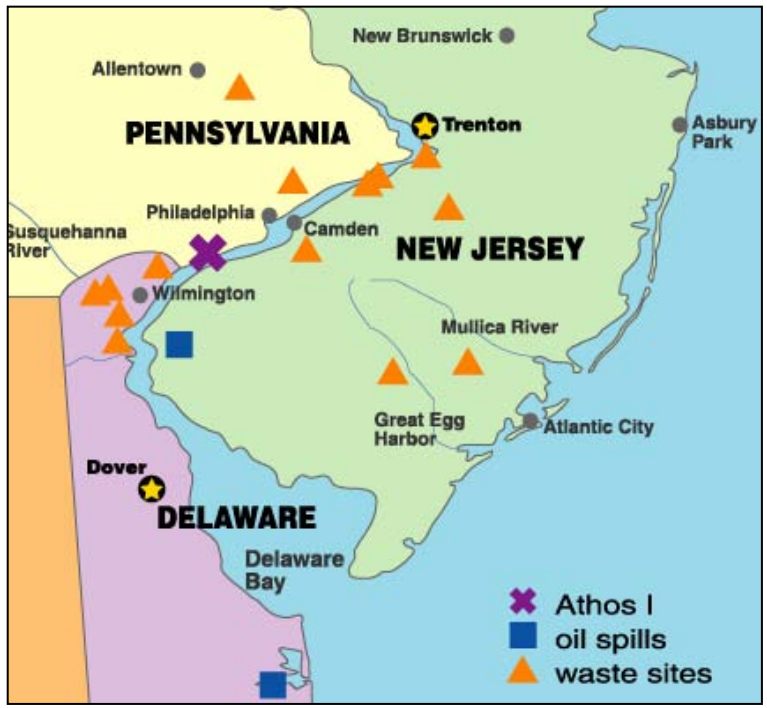
Ed Levine, Office of Response & Restoration

Incident - November 26, 2004

- *Struck submerged object during docking at Citgo facility*
- *Created two holes in port and center tanks*
- *Initial estimate ~30,000 gallons released*
- *Total of 264,000 gallons released*
- *Venezuelan heavy crude*
- *Very dense and viscous – cold honey*

Collision site & other ORR efforts

Location of Athos I site and other areas where NOAA is in various stages of remediation, cleanup, and restoration



Submerged and pooled oil

- *Greatest concerns—continued fouling, migration, and remobilization*
- *Impact created two trenches of pooled oil with ~ 4000 gallons*
- *Recovery through dredging, sorbents, and pumping*

Resources at risk

- *Birds – migratory, peregrine falcons, bald eagles*
- *Fish – juveniles and larvae, short nosed sturgeon*
- *Shellfish – blue crab (larvae), oysters and clams*
- *Wildlife – turtles, mink, muskrats, otters, and others*
- *Lost use – fishing, boating, hunting, power plant, and others*
- *Marshes – grasses, endangered plants, and wild rice*

NOAA on-scene support

- *Assisting with locating, quantifying, and recovering submerged oil*
- *Providing science for reopening Salem Nuclear Power Plant and the port of Philadelphia*
- *Conducting natural resource damage assessment*
- *Modeling trajectory of oil*
- *Identifying resources at risk*
- *Mapping sensitive habitats*
- *Managing information – ResponseLink*
- *Assisting navigational response team – channel surveys, rescue, sonar*

Trustees

- *Federal*
  - *NOAA (lead)*
  - *U.S. FWS*
- *State of Delaware*
- *State of New Jersey*
- *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*

Next steps

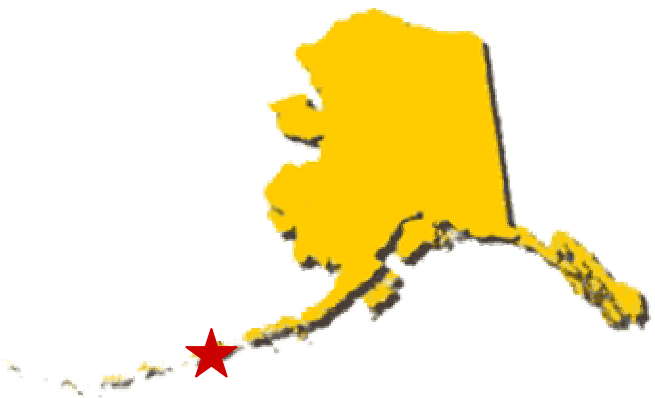
- *Continuing to assist cleanup*
- *Conducting natural resource damage assessment*
  - *2-4 year effort*
  - *Work cooperatively with responsible party and cotrustees*
  - *Collect data and conduct injury studies*
  - *Identify full extent of resource and service injuries*
  - *Develop assessment and restoration plan*
  - *Implement restoration projects to address injuries*

M/V *Selendang Ayu* Alaska Oil Spill

Rob Ricker, Office of Response & Restoration

M/V *Selendang Ayu*

- *738-foot Malaysian freighter*
- *Bulk carrier of soybeans*
- *Washington to China*



Unalaska Island

M/V *Selendang Ayu*

December 8 Aground

December 23 Bow section sunk

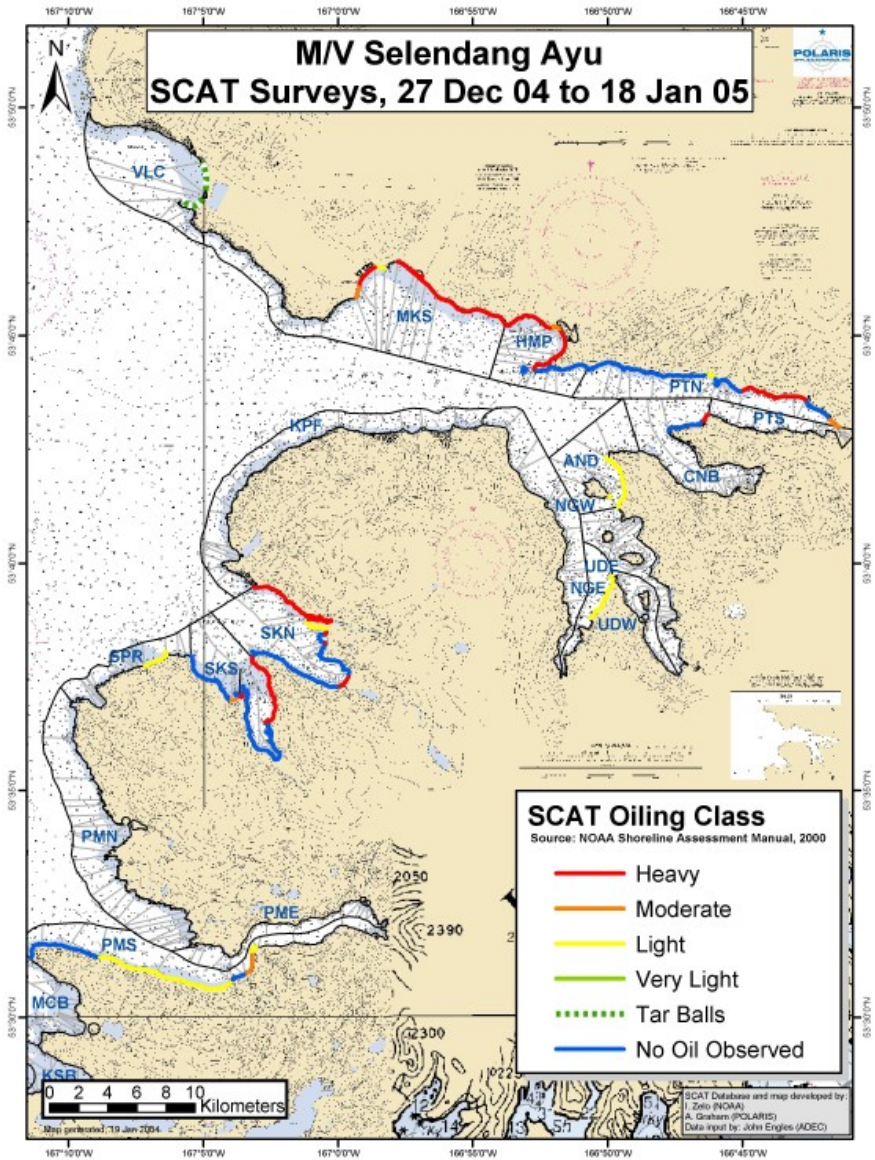
December 9 Broke in two

Release and salvage

- *Amount of fuel originally aboard*
  - *424,000 gallons Intermediate Fuel Oil - IFO 380*
  - *21,000 gallons marine diesel*
- *Amount known spilled*
  - *40,000 gallons IFO 380*
- *Amount lightered*
  - *79,500 gallons IFO 380/water and marine diesel, combined*
- *Total amount unaccounted for*
  - *325,500 gallons*

All numbers are estimates as of 25 January 2005

Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Teams



Trustees

- *Federal*
  - *NOAA*
  - *USFWS (lead)*
- *State of Alaska*
  - *Department of Environmental Conservation*
  - *Department of Fish and Game*
  - *Department of Natural Resources*
  - *Department of Law*

Also coordinating with Qawalangin and TDX tribes

Resources at risk

- *Shoreline – 124 miles surveyed of 340 miles for survey segments; 43 miles observed with oil;*
- *Birds – 970 dead oiled birds observed*
- *Fish and shellfish – e.g., Tanner crab, halibut, salmon*
- *Marine mammals – 18 oiled, 5 dead otters*

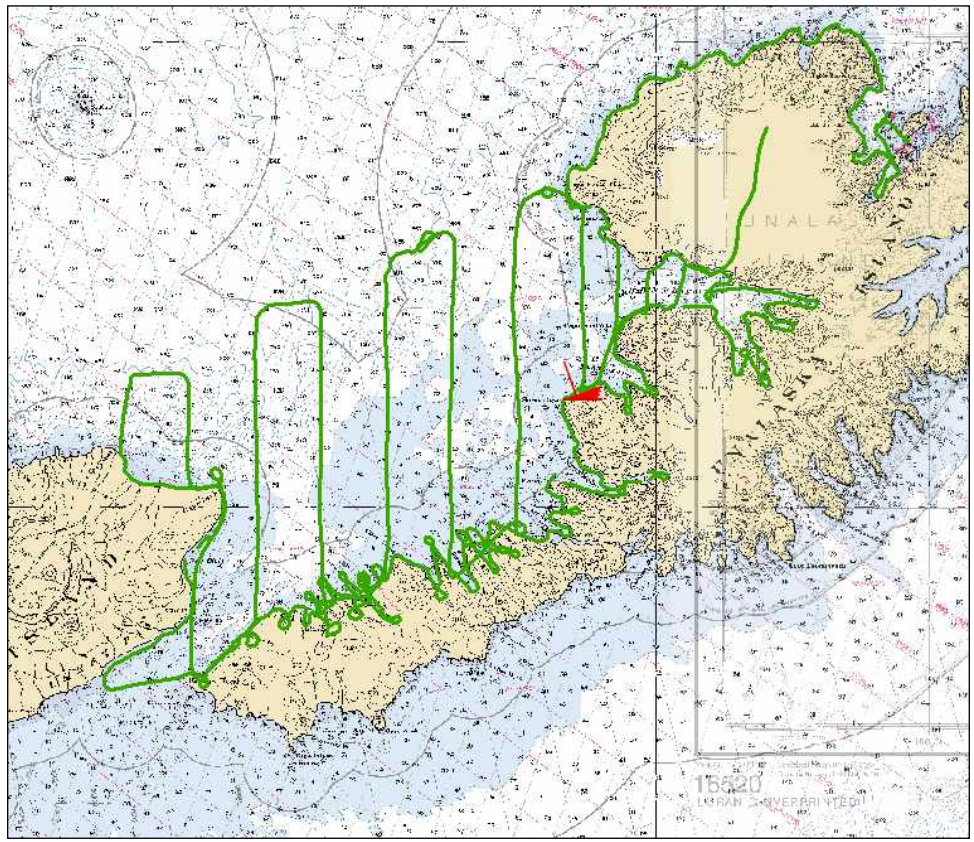
Commercial fisheries

- *State of Alaska: "zero tolerance" for oil contamination of seafood*
- *All Commercial Fisheries closed for Makushin and Skan Bays*
- *Rigid inspections ongoing for catch from other areas – no contamination found*

Soy Beans on Spray Cape

Aerial and ground surveys

- *Oil (surface and submerged)*
- *Coastal and pelagic seabirds*
- *Marine mammals*
- *Stream assessments*
- *Shoreline habitat*



Heavily oiled streams. Storms drove oil up stream channels, above the normal tidal range. NOAA is surveying salmon streams for the presence of oil.

Ongoing Response & NRDA activities

Questions?

Office of Response and Restoration—David Kennedy

Athos I Delaware River oil spill—Ed Levine

Selendang Ayu Alaska oil spill—Rob Ricker